

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A touchpad keyboard for entering data into a portable electronic appliance, said touchpad keyboard comprising:

a capacitance sensitive touchpad including circuitry for detecting and localizing an object on a surface thereof;

an overlay disposed on the surface of the touchpad keyboard, wherein the overlay provides visual feedback that corresponds to signals that will be generated therefrom when certain areas of the touchpad keyboard are pressed; and

a communications port for transmitting signals corresponding to keys on the touchpad keyboard.

2. The touchpad keyboard as defined in claim 1 wherein the touchpad keyboard further comprises an audio feedback system which causes a recorded voice to state a name of a key that is touched on the touchpad keyboard.

3. The touchpad keyboard as defined in claim 2 wherein the touchpad further comprises a scrolling wheel disposed

in a side thereof, such that a user can rotate the wheel to thereby cause data on a display screen to scroll up or down.

4. The touchpad keyboard as defined in claim 2 wherein the touchpad further comprises a communications cable that is coupled to the communications port to thereby enable remote coupling to a portable information appliance.

5. The touchpad keyboard as defined in claim 2 wherein the overlay further comprises tactile feedback to a user, wherein each separate key on the overlay is separated from all other zones by a raised ridge of material to thereby more discretely separate zones thereon.

6. A hand-held data input device for navigating web pages which are displayed on a web browser terminal, and for entering alphanumerical data therein, said data input device comprising:

a hand-held housing;

a touch-sensitive surface which is disposed within the hand-held housing and which functions as a keyboard

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having discrete locations which define keys thereon;

a touch-sensitive surface which is disposed within the hand-held housing and which functions as a touchpad device for cursor control and navigation of the web pages;

a means for providing audible feedback to a user, to thereby provide precise information as to which key on the keyboard was touched by the user; and

a communications link between the keyboard, the touchpad and the web browser terminal which at least transmits and receives data therebetween.

7. A hand-held data input device for navigating web pages which are displayed on a web browser terminal which is coupled to a network, and for entering alphanumerical data therein, said data input device comprising:

a hand-held housing;

a touch-sensitive surface which is disposed within the hand-held housing and which functions as a keyboard having discrete locations which define keys thereon;

a touch-sensitive surface which is disposed within the hand-held housing and which functions as a touchpad device for cursor control and navigation of the web pages;

